

Member Country Profile – Norway

Organisations:	Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) – Section for petroleum activity http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/en/
Country Representatives:	Kjell Andreas Jødestøl – chief engineer – Environment Anne-Grethe Kolstad – chief engineer – Environment
Contact:	Kjell.Andreas.Jodestol@miljodir.no Anne-Grethe.Kolstad@miljodir.no
Regime Scope:	
<p>NEA is Norway’s national regulator for offshore petroleum operations and greenhouse gas storage operations in Norwegian waters in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental management. 	
Administering Agency/Arrangements:	
<p>NEA is a regulatory authority established under the Ministry of Climate and Environment. There are several departments under the NEA that regulates different topics related to the offshore oil and gas industry, the most important being the Department of Marine environment and industry, the Department of Supervision and land-use planning, and the Department of Climate.</p> <p>The Department of Marine environment and industry regulates the environmental aspects of the oil and industry during exploration and production drilling, development, production and decommissioning, including pipelines. We also give consular advice regarding opening of new areas and awarding of new licences. We presently do not regulate seismic activities.</p>	
Legislation Type:	
<p>The <i>Pollution Control Act (1981)</i>, <i>Nature Diversity Act (2009)</i>, <i>Product Control Act (1976)</i> and <i>Greenhouse Gas Emission Act (2004)</i> provides the legislative framework for all offshore petroleum activities in Norwegian waters. The Acts are supported by associated regulations.</p>	
Links to relevant environment offshore petroleum legislation:	
<p>The laws are available at www.lovdata.no (all in Norwegian).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pollution Control Act (1981) ("Forurensningsloven")</i> • <i>Nature Diversity Act (2009) ("Naturmangfoldloven")</i> • <i>Product Control Act (1976) ("Produktkontrolloven")</i> • <i>Greenhouse Gas Emission Act (2004) ("Klimakvotelovent")</i> <p>Other information on relevant legislation for the petroleum industry is available at: https://www.ptil.no/en/regulations/all-acts/</p>	
Extent of Government Approval:	
<p>NEA approves and submit permits for all activities in the petroleum industry relating to exploration and production drilling, installation and development, and decommissioning. The permits are given according to the requirements given in acts and regulations, and the requirements and restrictions prescribed in licence awards which is based on National</p>	

Management plans (Ministerial White Papers) for the three ocean areas the North Sea, the Norwegian Sea and the Barents Sea, respectively.

Nature of Duties Imposed:

Prior to commencing activities that may cause pollution (emissions to water and air, and waste) or possible damage to species or habitats, duty holders must submit an application for permit according to specifications in the Pollution Control Act. The applications must contain necessary analysis and data to support decision making with respect to the permit and detailed requirements. Acceptance criteria for environmental risk must be defined, and other goals and objectives with respect to environmental protection must be set.

General requirements and restrictions for oil & gas activities on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS) is set in National White Papers by the Government (Ministries) for the different oceanic areas. The NEA has an active role in developing the scientific basis and recommended restrictions for these White Papers (Management Plans), but the goals and restrictions are set by politicians.

Physical Objects in the Regime:

To date (June 2019) there has been production from 106 fields, and there are 84 (surface) installations in production. In addition, there are a high number of subsea installations tied in to the surface installations. There are approx. 8800 km of subsea pipelines installed, mainly gas pipelines. Oil is mainly transported with shuttle tankers from the installations to onshore facilities. In addition, there are numerous infield pipelines. Per January 2020 there are 60 MODUs (mobile drilling rigs) that are approved (SUT-approval) for activity on the Norwegian Continental Shelf, with several new SUT applications in an approval process.

Assurance Mechanisms: Compliance assurance mechanisms?

The Agency regularly perform audits of the duty holders and follow up on annual reporting of discharges, emissions and performance of their activities every 3-5 years to confirm compliance with the permit and specific requirements.

Violations to regulations, permits and requirements are followed up by the Agency, while severe violations are addressed and forwarded to the Police for investigations and prosecution.

Financial Basis:

NEA is funded by the Ministry of Climate and Environment. All handling of permit applications and audits are covered by a fee for the duty holder.

Environmental Regulation Responsibilities:

The NEA is responsible for ensuring compliance with the relevant legislation for all oil & gas activities on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS). In the Svalbard (Spitsbergen) area the Governor of Svalbard ("Sysselmannen på Svalbard") is the responsible regulator according to the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act, which is based on the Svalbard (Spitsbergen) Treaty from 1920. Presently there are no offshore oil & gas activities within the jurisdiction of the Svalbard Treaty.

Oil Spill Response:

NEA is responsible for setting requirements for Oil Spill Response on the NCS, while the Norwegian Coastal Administration is responsible for supervision and control in case of major oil spills.

Transparency:

All applications for offshore oil & gas activities submitted to the NEA are published on the NEA websites, to ensure advance notice to the public. Comments and complaints from relevant parties and NGO's can be submitted directly on the websites or be posted/emailed to NEA.

Every licence with offshore oil & gas operations on the NCS must submit an annual report on their activities and document their discharges, emissions, waste generation, and other relevant aspects such as technological or operational improvements and developments.

Profile Date:

January 2020